# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# LAW AND JUSTICE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2824
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2017
Merger of Tribunals
Agrawal Shri Rajendra;Trivedi Shri Dinesh

**Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Union Government plans to merge the existing 36 tribunals in the country and bring down their number to 17;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the plan is likely to be executed;

(c) whether the Government has consulted various Ministries under which the said tribunals are functioning in this regard and received their responses and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps the Government plans to take regarding amendment of the Administrative Tribunals Act for curbing appellate jurisdiction of the High Court against decisions of the Central and State Administrative Tribunals and filing of direct appeal in the Supreme Court only?

## Answer

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE & ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): On the issue of merger/convergence of various Tribunals, Indian Law Institute (ILI) in its report recommended that the identified 36 Tribunals can be reduced to 17. During the study undertaken on merger/conversions of Tribunals, the number of Tribunals has been reduced by five, i.e., the Company Law Board, Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction and Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction have been subsumed into National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) and two Appellate Tribunals, namely the Appellate Tribunal for Prevention of Money Laundering and Appellate Tribunal for Forfeited Property have been converged by providing for those appeals to be heard by the Appellate Tribunal under Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976 through the Finance Act, 2016. Further, regarding merger of water disputes Tribunals, a separate Bill, namely, the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 is already pending in the Lok Sabha. After consultations with the Ministries/Departments concerned, in the first phase, 17 Tribunals have already been merged/converged to reduce them to 8, through the Finance Act, 2017.

(d): There is no such proposal.